

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 171142  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC  
APPROVED BY NEA/ M. DRAPER  
S/S-O :JETHYDEN  
IO/UNP - PETER BRIDGES (SUBS)  
-----039268 070259Z /70

O 070233Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, UNSC, PINT, LE, IS, SY

SUBJECT: LEBANON: U.S. STEPS

1. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO REVIEW STEPS WE HAVE BEEN

TAKING TO DEFUSE THE BUDDING CRISIS CAUSED BY CONTINUED HEAVY FIGHTING IN BEIRUT. ALL ACTION ADDRESSEES AT THEIR DISCRETION CAN EITHER TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO SHARE THIS WITH THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS OR USE IT IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES. JIDDA, CAIRO, KUWAIT, TEHRAN, KHARTOUM, ABU DHABI, AND AMMAN SHOULD, HOWEVER, TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE THEY COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. EVER SINCE THE FIGHTING BEGAN ON JULY 1 IN BEIRUT, WE HAVE BEEN MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS WITH THE LEBANESE, THE SYRIANS, AND THE ISRAELIS TO COUNSEL RESTRAINT, TO PREVENT THE SITUATION FROM ESCALATING, AND TO BRING ABOUT A CEASE-FIRE. WE HAVE ISSUED A SERIES OF PUBLIC APPEALS, AND HAVE URGED A NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, THE VATICAN, AND WALDHEIM, TO JOIN WITH US IN EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE SITUATION. WALDHEIM ISSUED AN APPEAL FOR A CEASEFIRE, AND THE POPE ALSO PUBLICLY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN IN A SPECIAL APPEAL. THE UK AND FRANCE HAVE MADE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN WITH THE

SYRIANS, ISRAELIS, AND LEBANESE.

3. TODAY, JULY 6, THE SITUATION HAD REACHED A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS STAGE. PRESIDENT SARKIS HAD INDICATED HE WAS INTENDING TO RESIGN. THE TOLL IN LIVES AND PROPERTY LOST  
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THROUGH THE HEAVY ARTILLERY SHELLING MADE AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AN OVERRIDING HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. AN ISRAELI SPOKESMAN PUBLICLY VOICED ISRAELI DETERMINATION TO PREVENT A MASSACRE OF THE CHRISTIANS, AND ISRAELI AIRCRAFT APPARENTLY OVERFLEW BEIRUT AS A WARNING.

4. AMBASSADOR PARKER IN BEIRUT TRIED TO DISSUADE SARKIS FROM RESIGNING AND CONVEYED THE SECRETARY'S DEEP PERSONAL CONCERN OVER THIS POSSIBILITY. WE AGAIN URGED THE ISRAELIS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND TO COUNSEL THEIR CHRISTIAN CONTACTS IN LEBANON TO COOPERATE WITH THE CEASEFIRE AND REFRAIN FROM PROVOCATION AGAINST THE ADF. WE GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE SYRIANS IN WASHINGTON AND IN DAMASCUS TO SHARE OUR CONCERN OVER THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND TO URGE AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE WITH STRICT COMPLIANCE BY SYRIAN FORCES EVEN IF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS DID NOT OBSERVE IT SATISFACTORILY FOR THE MOMENT. THE SYRIANS IN RESPONSE SAID THAT SYRIAN TROOPS HAD BEEN ORDERED TO SHOW RESTRAINT AND TO TOLERATE PROVOCATIONS WITHIN LIMITS. BEGIN FYI. WE ALSO DECIDED TODAY TO PLAN ON CALLING AN URGENT S.C. MEETING ON LEBANON BECAUSE OF (1) THE OVERRIDING HUMANITARIAN NEED TO STOP THE DYING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND (2) THE NEED TO DEAL WITH

THE THREAT TO PEACE IN THE WIDER MIDDLE EAST CONTEXT CAUSED BY THE ESCALATING SITUATION. WE CONSULTED WITH WALDHEIM AND SOME WESTERN POWERS, AS WELL AS WITH THE LEBANESE AND SYRIANS. THE REACTIONS WERE GENERALLY NEGATIVE. BECAUSE OF THIS, WE SUSPENDED OUR CONSULTATIONS. WE INFORMED THOSE WHOM WE HAD CONSULTED THAT U.S. ACTION IN THIS DIRECTION IS NOW IN SUSPENSION PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN BEIRUT. OUR DECISION TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT A CEASEFIRE IN THE CITY BEGAN TO TAKE HOLD. YOU SHOULD NOT RPT NOT VOLUNTEER THIS INFORMATION ON OUR INITIATIVE FOR AN SC MEETING BUT, IN THE EVENT HOST GOVERNMENT HAS HEARD OF THIS STEP AND INQUIRES ABOUT IT, YOU COULD DRAW ON ABOVE TO EXPLAIN. END FYI.

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5. PRESIDENT ASSAD APPARENTLY URGED SARKIS TO RECONSIDER HIS RESIGNATION. LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER HOSS AND OTHER LEBANESE APPARENTLY ALSO URGED THIS. IT NOW APPEARS THAT SARKIS HAS AT LEAST POSTPONED HIS DECISION TO RESIGN, AND WE REGARD THIS AS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT.

6. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT. WE HOPE OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE IN QUARTERS WHERE THEY HAVE INFLUENCE TO ASSIST IN THIS EFFORT. THERE ARE SERIOUS DANGERS OTHERWISE OF MAJOR TURMOIL AND ANARCHY IN LEBANON, AS WELL AS INHERENT RISKS OF WIDER CONFLICT.

7. FOR JIDDA: SAY THAT WE NOTED THE USEFUL ACTIVITIES OF THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT, AND WE UNDERSTAND SAUDI ARABIA IS MAKING STRONG EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE SITUATION. WE APPRECIATE THIS AND HOPE THAT SAUDI ARABIA, WHICH WAS A MAIN FORCE BRINGING AN END TO THE CIVIL CONFLICT IN 1976 AND WHICH PROVIDES MAJOR SUPPORT IN MANPOWER AND FINANCE TO THE ADF, WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO PRESERVE THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN LEBANON AND DE-ESCALATE THE TENSIONS.

8. FOR AMMAN: SAY THAT WE HOPE JORDAN WILL URGE RESTRAINT AND COOPERATION WITH THE CEASEFIRE WITH THE CHAMOUNISTS AND DO WHAT IT CAN WITH THE SYRIANS TO PREVENT WORSENING SITUATION. A STRICTLY-OBSERVED CEASEFIRE WOULD GIVE ALL OF US MORE TIME TO WORK OUT A MORE ENDURING SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

9. FOR CAIRO: ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT AN ESCALATING SITUATION WOULD ALSO HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR EFFORTS TO GET OUT OF THE IMPASSE IN PEACE

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NEGOTIATIONS. VANCE

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DRAFTED BY NEA/LIWG:DWINN

APPROVED BY S/S-O:DROBINSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 171142

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FOL RPT STATE 171142 ACTION AMMAN CAIRO JIDDA KUWAIT ABU  
DHABI MANAMA KHARTOUM ALGIERS TUNIS TEHRAN RABAT INFO LONDON  
PARIS USUN NY BEIRUT TEL AVIV JERUSALEM DAMASCUS ROME OTTAWA  
BONN 7 JUL 78 QUOTE

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PEPR, MOPS, PINT, LE, IS, SY, US, UNSC  
**To:** AMMAN CAIRO MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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